



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**U.S. CHARGES ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF N.Y. CITY HIGH
SCHOOL WITH INTERNET SEX CRIMES INVOLVING MINORS**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that STEVEN MARK RUBINSTEIN, an Assistant Principal at the Murry Bergtraum High School in New York City, pleaded guilty today in White Plains federal court to the receipt and the distribution of child pornography and to attempting to entice minors to meet with him to engage in sexual activities.

According to statements made in court, RUBINSTEIN, over the past year, engaged in a series of sexually explicit conversations, via Internet Relay Chat rooms, with two separate undercover officers who he believed were 13-year-old girls. RUBINSTEIN engaged in these communications using his work station in the New York City schools as well as a home computer in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Among other things, RUBINSTEIN told the persons he believed were minor girls that in the past he had engaged in sex with a 15-year-old girl and a 17-year-old girl. After establishing a relationship with the girls he believed were minors, RUBINSTEIN then asked the girls to meet with him in order to engage in sexual activities.

According to statements made in court, when federal agents searched RUBINSTEIN's residence and seized his computer equipment, RUBINSTEIN admitted to attempting to meet with the girls who he believed were minors, and stated that the only reason that he did not pursue the meetings was because his subsequent scrutiny of the conversations led him to suspect that the "girls" might be undercover officers.

In addition, RUBINSTEIN admitted to downloading and trading images of child pornography over the internet. According to statements made in court, the images seized from RUBINSTEIN's

computer include depictions of minors engaging in sexual intercourse with adults. Some of the minor child victims have been identified by law enforcement authorities.

RUBINSTEIN, 49, lives in Poughkeepsie, New York. At sentencing, RUBINSTEIN faces a maximum sentence of 50 years' imprisonment, and a mandatory minimum term of 5 years' imprisonment. Pursuant to statute, the computer equipment that was used to facilitate the offenses will be forfeited. In court, RUBINSTEIN admitted to the forfeiture allegations contained in the Felony Information.

RUBINSTEIN was detained by United States Magistrate Judge MARK D. FOX, who scheduled a detention hearing for April 17, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. Sentencing is scheduled for July 10, 2006, before United States District Judge COLLEEN MCMAHON.

Mr. GARCIA praised the collaborative investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Rockland County Sheriff's Computer Crime Task Force. Mr. GARCIA also thanked the New York City Board of Education for their assistance and their technical support throughout the course of the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney CYNTHIA K. DUNNE is in charge of the prosecution.

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